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## **Korea - Republic of**

**Post:** Seoul

### **Rice Production Update**

**Report Categories:**

Grain and Feed

**Approved By:**

M. Kathryn Ting

**Prepared By:**

Sunchul Choi//Michael Francom

**Report Highlights:**

South Korea's rice production in 2011 is the lowest it has been in more than 30 years due in large part to the steady decline in acreage planted. The Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries (MFAFF) is considering lowering the average milling rate to reflect current production practices. A lower milling rate, if adopted, would reduce milled production estimates on average by about 3 percent.

## General Information:

### Rice Production Hits 30-Year Low:

On November 17, 2011, the Korean Statistical Information Service (KOSIS) released its final 2011 rice production estimate at 4,224,019 metric tons, which is up a nominal 8,500 metric tons from the September forecast. Despite this minor upward revision, Korean rice production is still at its lowest point in more than 30 years ([KS1144](#)). Since reaching its peak in the 1970's, rice production has been trending downward as farmers retire without being replaced and consumers' diets change. The PSD has been updated accordingly.

Korea: Rice Area, Yield and Production			
Crop Year	Area (1,00HA)	Yield (KG/HA)	Production (Milled, 1,000 MT)
2005	980	4,900	4,768
2006	955	4,890	4,680
2007	950	4,640	4,408
2008	936	5,180	4,843
2009	924	5,318	4,916
2010	892	4,820	4,295
2011	854	4,946	4,224

Source: Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries (MFAFF)

Korea: 2011 Rice Area, Yield and Production			
Type of Rice Land	Area	Yield (KG/HA)	Production (Milled, MT)
Paddy Rice	850,798	4,960	4,216,607
Upland Rice	3,025	2,450	7,412
Total	853,823	4,947	4,224,019

Source: Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries (MFAFF)

### Revision of Applicable Milling Rate from Brown Rice to Milled Rice:

Based on the outcome of a recent industry survey, the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries acknowledged that the current average milling rate (paddy to milled) is too high and is considering lowering it from 74 percent to 72 percent to reflect current milling practices. Local processors are reportedly now polishing rice to a greater degree in response to consumer demand for well-milled high quality rice. In particular, as shown in the table below, the degree of milling is said to have climbed from 9 to 12. Note, the higher you go up the 12 degree spectrum the whiter the rice. The shelling rate to brown rice from paddy rice remains unchanged at 80 percent.

Korea: Milling Rate to Milled Rice from Paddy Rice (Percent)							
Degree(s)	1	2	5	7	9 <sup>a/</sup>	10	12 <sup>b/</sup>
% of Brown Rice Removed	0.8	1.6	4.0	5.6	7.2	8.0	9.6
% of Milled Rice Remaining	99.2	98.4	96.0	94.4	92.9	92.0	90.4
% of Shelling Rate	80	80	80	80	80	80	80
% of Milling Rate	79.36	78.72	76.80	75.52	74.32	73.60	72.32

Source: Korean Statistical Information Service (KOSIS)

a/ milling rate applicable to date

b/ milling rate to be revised in the future

The following table shows a comparison of milled rice production based on milling rate of 9 degrees and 12 degrees. The change in milling rates will result in reported production of milled rice falling on average about 3 percent. However, until MFAFF revises its official data series, PSD milling rate figures will remain unchanged.

Korea: Rice Production Comparison per Milling Rate
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Yield (Rough)	7.	7.0368	7.	6.5135	7.	6.5761
TS=TD		0		0		0

MT)  
(MT/HA)